

From time to time we should stop and consider how momentous is the decision we have made to be a follower of Jesus. So easily we expect our Christian life to be undisturbed and unchallenged; so that it can become little more than engaging from time to time in consoling practices. We can fail to recognise that we are caught up in nothing less than the life and death struggle of the whole world. The one we are called to follow is the eternal Son of the Father, who became one of us, that through his Paschal Mystery he may lead us out of the world of selfishness and violence we have made, into a new heaven and new earth, where all is shaped by the generous and merciful ways of his Father. We should not be surprised that, as he undertakes his courageous journey to Jerusalem, his teaching has a sharp edge. It is important, however, to understand what he is asking of us, so that it will not remain little more than a seemingly impossible ideal.

Luke has Jesus giving this teaching to 'great crowds'; it is not teaching for an elite group, but teaching that all those who call themselves his followers should take to heart. We must not be misled, of course, by the stark Semitic turn of phrase he uses. He does not tell us that we should have no love for the things most precious in our lives, our many bonds of kinship, even our own life itself. He is telling us that even these things must not be given a preference in our decisions that would amount to a renunciation of Christ and what he stands for. He is showing us the seriousness of the mysterious mission he has received from his Father, as he makes for the Holy City to take up his cross. If we are to be his true followers, we must 'carry his cross and come after him'. Our following must not be half-hearted, his two parables tell us. We must weigh up fully the implications of our decision not to allow any consideration to destroy our commitment to him; we must be ready to carry it through to the end. Otherwise our situation will be like that of the man whose half-completed building is a monument to his foolishness; or worse, like that of the king whose lack of foresight leads him to defeat and death. In the continuation of Luke's text, Jesus tells us that we - who are called to share in his mission to bring wholesomeness to the world - should not become like salt that has lost its taste.

The final words of the gospel are the most challenging of all: 'none of you can be my disciples unless he gives up all his possessions'. But these very words help us to understand that Luke is not holding up to us an impossible ideal. Luke stresses the place of poverty in the Christian life; the wording of his first beatitude is blunt: 'Happy are you who are poor' (Lk 6:20); but what follows makes it clear that he does not expect all followers of Jesus to give up all their possessions - they are urged to 'lend, without hope of return' and to 'give' generously. What the Lord asks for is that, in our life commitments, we place all that is most dear to us in his hands, ready to accept whatever he asks of us. Some Christians, of course, receive a personal call to immediate renunciation - a reminder to us all of the seriousness of our following of Christ.

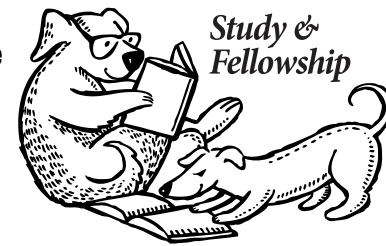
John Thornhill sm

PARISH

Scripture Classes

We resume on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 10am in the downstairs meeting room and on Thursday, Sept. 19, 7pm at Our Lady of Sorrows School, 32 Montgomery Rd., room 315.

Our topic is the Gospel according to St. John, chapters 13 to 21. All are welcome. Please bring your Bible!



Rosary Group

Join us Fridays, 2pm in the church for 3 Mysteries of the Rosary (Joyful, Glorious and Sorrowful) followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy; One decade is also prayed daily after the 9am Mass. All are welcomed with a smile and an open heart!

"The Rosary is the most beautiful and richest of all prayers to the Mediatrix of all grace; it is the prayer that touches most the heart of the Mother of God. Say it each day."
— Saint Pius X

Congratulations, Fr. Matthew Furgiuele!

Can a former parishioner deliver the homily at weekend Masses? Sometimes, sure! Next weekend, newly ordained Fr. Matthew will preach at all Masses and preside over an 11am First Solemn Mass, for which attendees will receive a plenary indulgence and after which, all are invited to the parish hall to deliver their personal greetings.

Accompanist Needed! — Please contact Michelle through the parish office.

Mass Intentions This Week — Sept. 9 to 15

Please join us as we pray for the following "Announced Mass" intentions:

	Intention(s)	Requested by
Monday, 9am	✠ Raul Guerrero	Manuel Guerrero
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Ivela Cavoto	Jim and Winnie Magee
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Deceased members of the Patullo and Bosa families	Teresa Patullo Bosa
Thursday, 9am	...of the Hughes family	The DeWitt family
Friday, 9am	✠ Edyta Czartoryjska	The family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Anna Sajdik ✠ Anna Gihlovsky	Theresa Gihlavsky
5:15pm	✠ Jennie and John Tubaro	The Winter and Tubaro families
Sunday	No announced Masses; Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows	

COMMUNITY

Support for Recently Separated/Divorced Catholics

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is offering a 10 week group program for adult men and women coping with the many struggles involved in the process of separation and divorce. Group participants will receive support and guidance as they move through this difficult period of transition.

The group will run on Tuesday evenings from 6:30—8:30pm beginning Sept. 24th at our Central Office, 1155 Yonge St. (Summerhill Subway Station). For information, contact Ian Singer at 416-921-1163.

Ecumenical Bible Study

The Fall session will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 9:30—11am at Islington United Church, 25 Burnhamthorpe Rd. Sister Judith Kidd, I.B.V.M. holds degrees in sacred theology from the Universities of Toronto and Windsor and will continue to lead us through The Gospel of St. John.

If you are interested in prayerful study with the latest theological input, please call Carmel, 416-241-9557, Helen, 416-234-1770 or Anne-Marie, 416-239-9455 for information. Coffee & refreshments break included.

Golf Tournament Fundraiser

The Consolata Missionaries are holding their 17th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser on Wednesday, Sept. 11, Caledon Country Club. Cost per golfer is \$180.00 and includes lunch, dinner, green fee, golf cart & prizes. Please call 416-749-8907 or visit <http://bit.ly/ConsolataGolf> to register.

Free Estate Planning Seminar

Catholic Cemeteries and the Archdiocesan estate planning team will share:

- How to protect your loved ones with a proper Will
- How to ensure your wishes are legally protected
- About Powers of Attorney
- The cost savings of making an estate plan
- Finding lawyers and estate planning advisors
- Our Catholic traditions around wills, burial and funerals



An estate planning kit and DVD will be provided at no cost. Takes place on Saturday, Sept. 21, 9am at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, 7300 Highway #27, Woodbridge, ON, L4L 1A5. Refreshments provided. RSVP Frank Jannetta, 416-733-8544, ext. 237 or fjannetta@ccat.on.ca

Second Chance Ministry

If you helped someone to have an abortion or have had one yourself and feel depressed or guilty because of it, help is available. Contact Fr. Vince Heffernan with Second Chance Ministry at 416-261-7135, ext. 279 or email info@secondchanceministry.ca